

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A hydraulic coupling device, comprising:

a male coupling part in the form of a sealing element comprising a hollow body of metallic material with a first male sealing member formed at a first end of the body and a second male sealing member formed at a second end of the body opposite said first end, the body further comprising ~~a single disc shaped~~ an intermediate member that forms a continuous part together with the first male sealing member and the second male sealing member and that is mechanically compressible so as to be capable of storing elastic energy when the body is subjected to axial compression, wherein an internal bore extends through the body and through the first and second male sealing members and the intermediate member, the spherical contact surface of the respective male sealing member surrounding said internal bore;

a first female coupling part comprising a first female sealing member and having an internal bore extending through the coupling part and its female sealing member; and

a second female coupling part comprising a second female sealing member,

wherein the first male sealing member has an external spherical contact surface designed for mating with a corresponding internal conical contact surface of the first female sealing member so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the first male sealing member and the first female sealing member when their contact surfaces are pressed against each other;

wherein the second male sealing member has an external spherical contact surface designed for mating with a corresponding internal conical contact surface of the second female

sealing member so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the second male sealing member and the second female sealing member when their contact surfaces are pressed against each other,

wherein at least one of the first and second female coupling parts comprises a valve, which comprises a valve body displaceably arranged inside the internal bore of the female coupling part and a spring member acting on the valve body, the valve body being displaceable against the action of the spring member from a first position, in which the valve is closed and prevents fluid flow through the internal bore of the female coupling part, to a second position, in which the valve is open and allows fluid flow through the internal bore of the female coupling part; and

wherein the male coupling part comprises an actuation member for displacing the valve body from said first position to said second position immediately before the female sealing member of the female coupling part is brought into engagement with the corresponding male sealing member of the male coupling part.

2. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the first male sealing member is coaxial with the second male sealing member.

3. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate member is expandable by an internal fluid pressure in the body so as to urge the respective male sealing member outwards in the axial direction of the body against the corresponding female sealing member when the sealing element is fitted between said female sealing members, thereby increasing the sealing contact pressure between the respective male sealing member and the corresponding female sealing member.

4. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate member has an internal cross-sectional area which is larger than the external cross-sectional area of the respective male sealing member as seen at the point of the male sealing member where the male sealing member is designed to engage with the corresponding female sealing member.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the second female coupling part has an internal bore extending through the coupling part and its female sealing member.

7. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the second female coupling part is designed as a stop member adapted to close the internal bore of the male coupling part when the male coupling part is clamped between the first and second female coupling parts.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to ~~claim 8~~, claim 1, wherein:

the valve comprises a housing which is immovably fixed inside the internal bore of the

female coupling part, said housing comprising a cavity accommodating the spring member and a part of the valve body; and

wherein said cavity is in fluid communication with an orifice at the end of the valve facing the free end of the female sealing member of the female coupling part so as to allow the cavity to be in fluid communication with the surroundings via said orifice when the female coupling part is out of engagement with the male coupling part.

10. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 9, wherein the actuation member is adapted to restrict the flow through the orifice when the female sealing member is in engagement with the corresponding male sealing member.

11. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 9, wherein the cavity is in fluid communication with the orifice via a channel extending through the valve body.

12. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 11, wherein said channel extends axially through the valve body.

13. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 11, wherein the actuation member is adapted to engage with the valve body so as to cover the orifice and thereby restrict the flow through the orifice when the female sealing member is in engagement with the corresponding male sealing member.

14. (currently amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to ~~claim 8~~, claim 1, wherein:

the valve comprises a ring-shaped seal element arranged in an annular groove, which groove is provided in the inner wall of the internal bore of the female coupling part; and
an external surface of the valve body is adapted to engage with the ring-shaped seal element so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the inner wall of the internal bore and the valve body when the valve body is in said first position.

15. (currently amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to ~~claim 8~~, claim 1, wherein:

the valve body comprises a first body part and a second body part, said first body part being located in front of the second body part as seen in a direction along the associated internal bore towards the associated female sealing member;

a first flow path section is provided radially outwardly of the first body part between the valve housing and the inner wall of the internal bore, and a second flow path section is provided between the second body part and said inner wall, said first and second flow path sections extending essentially in the axial direction of the internal bore on mutually different levels as seen in the radial direction of the internal bore;

the first flow path section is connected to the second flow path section via an intermediate flow path section extending obliquely in relation to the first and second flow path sections; and

the first body part is adapted to block the intermediate flow path section when the valve body is displaced from said second position to said first position.

16. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 15, wherein the second body part has a smaller cross-sectional area than the first body part, wherein the second body part is surrounded by the ring-shaped seal element and out of engagement therewith when the valve body is in said second position, wherein an external surface of the first body part is adapted to be brought into engagement with the ring-shaped seal element so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the inner wall of the internal bore and the valve body when the valve body is displaced from said second position to said first position, and wherein the end of the first body part facing the second body part only has blunt edges so that the ring-shaped seal element will meet no sharp edge when the valve body is displaced between said positions.

17. (previously amended) The hydraulic coupling device according to claim 15, wherein the intermediate flow path section is defined partly by an external surface of the valve body which extends obliquely, as seen in the axial direction of the valve body, between the first body part and the second body part.

18-29 (cancelled)

30. (new) A hydraulic coupling device, comprising:
a male coupling part in the form of a sealing element comprising a hollow body of metallic material with a first male sealing member formed at a first end of the body and a second male sealing member formed at a second end of the body opposite said first end, the body further comprising an intermediate member that forms a continuous part together with the first male

sealing member and the second male sealing member and that is mechanically compressible so as to be capable of storing elastic energy when the body is subjected to axial compression, wherein an internal bore extends through the body and through the first and second male sealing members and the intermediate member, the spherical contact surface of the respective male sealing member surrounding said internal bore;

a first female coupling part comprising a first female sealing member and having an internal bore extending through the coupling part and its female sealing member; and

a second female coupling part comprising a second female sealing member,

wherein the first male sealing member has an external spherical contact surface designed for mating with a corresponding internal conical contact surface of the first female sealing member so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the first male sealing member and the first female sealing member when their contact surfaces are pressed against each other;

wherein the second male sealing member has an external spherical contact surface designed for mating with a corresponding internal conical contact surface of the second female sealing member so as to form a fluid-tight seal between the second male sealing member and the second female sealing member when their contact surfaces are pressed against each other, and

wherein the second female coupling part is designed as a stop member adapted to close the internal bore of the male coupling part when the male coupling part is clamped between the first and second female coupling part.